1	2	3	4
3.	Maharashtra	2007	1985
		2008 (upto 31.01.2008)	110
4.	Punjab	2007-08	18
5.	Kerala	2007 (upto 31.10.2007)	64
6.	Gujarat	2007	103
		2008 (upto March, 2008)	10
7.	Tamil Nadu	2000-2007 (up to March 2007)	26

NB: Other States and all Union Territories have reported 'nil' information relating to suicide by farmers.

Performance of National Fisheries Development Board

15. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the performance of the National Fisheries Development Board so far and the status of the Blue Revolution Plan; and

(b) the steps taken by NFDB for the fishing industry in Karnataka and Kerala, in particular?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) The National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) has embarked upon blue revolution through several programmes and schemes for development of fisheries and aquaculture in the country. It has so far provided financial support to the extent of Rupees 68.82 crore for implementation of schemes such as (i) Intensive Aquaculture in ponds and tanks, (ii) stocking of reservoirs, (iii) post harvest and marketing infrastructure, (iv) coastal aquaculture, (v) training, (vi) deep sea fishing etc.

(b) NFDB, through its programmes, has released an amount of Rupees 8.89 crore and Rupees 3.12 crore for fisheries sector in the states of Karnataka and Kerala respectively. The major activities undertaken in these states are (i) establishment of domestic marketing infrastructure, (ii) seed production, (iii) freshwater aquaculture including prawn farming, (iv) ornamental fisheries, (v) reservoir development, (vi) training and demonstration etc.

Suicides by farmers despite loan waiver by Government

16. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that suicides by farmers continue unabated even after the announcement of loan waiver in the annual budget;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The suicides by farmers have mainly been reported from the states of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala. Some cases of suicides by farmers have also been reported from the states of Gujarat, Punjab and Tamil Nadu. A statement indicating the number of suicides by farmers as reported by the State Governments is enclosed statement. As reported by the State Governments, the causes for suicide by farmers are broadly crop failure, indebtedness, drought and social & economic insecurity. To address the problem of suicide by farmers, the Government of India approved a rehabilitation package of Rs. 16978.69 crore for 31 Districts in the four States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala reporting comparatively higher number of suicides by farmers. The package includes both immediate and medium term measures. The rehabilitation package aims at establishing a sustainable and viable farming and livelihood support system through debt relief to farmers, improved supply of institutional credit, crop centric approach to agriculture, assured irrigation facilities, watershed management, better extension and farming support services and subsidiary income opportunities through horticulture, livestock, dairying, fisheries etc. An amount of Rs. 11463.49 crore (about 67.51% of total package cost) has been released by Central/State Governments and Banks under the package up to 30.06.2008. Measures taken by Government include an Agricultural debt waiver and debt relief scheme announced in the Union Budget 2008-09 to address the problem of indebtedness of farmers. In addition, for revitalization of agriculture sector, Government approved the National Policy for Farmers, 2007 which, *Inter-alia*, aims to improve economic viability of farming by substantially increasing the net income of the farmers. The Policy provisions *Inter-alia*, include, asset reforms in respect of land, water, livestock, fisheries and bio-resources; support services and inputs like application of frontier technologies for improving productivity in a sustainable manner; agricultural bio-security system; supply of good quality seeds and disease-free planting material; improvement of soil health, integrated nutrient and pest management system and improvement in marketing infrastructure etc.

Besides, Government has launched two new Schemes namely, National Food Security Mission to improve production and productivity of foodgrains and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana with an objective to incentivise the states so as to increase public investment in agriculture and allied sector.

Statement

Cases of suicide by farmers as per reports received from State Govts.
(as on 30.09.2008)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Period	No. (Based on the figures reported by State Govts.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2005	657
		2006	514

1	2	3	4
		2007 (upto 30.09.2007)	142
2.	Karnataka	2005-06	163
		2006-07	346
		2007-08	342
		2008-09 (upto 31.08.2008)	152
3.	Maharashtra	2005	595
		2006	2355
		2007	1985
		2008 (upto 31.01.2008)	110
4.	Punjab	2005	32
		2006	19
		2007	24
5.	Kerala	2001 to 2006	841
		2007 (upto 31.10.2007)	64
6.	Gujarat	2005	125
		2006	149
		2007	103
		2008 (upto March, 2008)	10
7.	Tamil Nadu	2000-2007 (up to March 2007)	26

Other States and all Union Territories have reported 'nil' information relating to suicide by farmers

Target and achievements in agriculture growth

17. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the growth rate of agriculture targeted and the actual achieved during 2007-08 alongwith the reasons for the gap between the target and the achievement and the steps taken thereon; and

(b) the target fixed for 2008-09 for the growth of agriculture and the achievements made in achieving the target so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The targeted growth rate for agriculture and allied sectors during the Eleventh Plan period (2007-08 to 2011-12) is 4.0 per cent. Against the target of 4.0 per cent, the